St. Hubert's Lodge,
Great Harwood,
February 6th, 1907.

To the Chairman and Members of the Great Harwood Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting to your notice my Annual Report of the Sanitary condition of your District, together with the returns of Births and Deaths for the year ending December 31st, 1906, also Forms 1, 3, 4, 5, as required by the Local Government Board.

During the year 310 births have been registered, of whom 167 were boys and 143 girls. Estimating the population at 13,500 this gives a yearly birth-rate of 23 per thousand of the inhabitants. The birth-rate for 1905 was 22·8 per thousand, and for the ten previous years 26·18 per thousand.

During the same period the deaths numbered 165 of whom 85 were males and 80 females. This is an annual deathrate of 12·3 per thousand of the population. Five of these deaths however occurred in institutions outside your District, leaving 160 deaths or 11·8 per thousand actually occurring in Great Harwood.

The Death-rate for 1905 was 12·4 per thousand and for the ten previous years 13·8 per thousand.

The ages at which death occurred were:—

Under 1 year of age	36
Between 1 and 5 years of age ...	20
,, 5 ,, 15 ,, ...	13
,, 15 ,, 25 ,, ...	11
,, 25 ,, 45 ,, ...	22
,, 45 ,, 65 ,, ...	35
Over 65 ,, ...	28
Total... ...	165 deaths.

The death-rate of infants under one year of age has been 116·1 per thousand of births registered against 165 per thousand births registered in 1905, and for the ten previous years 150·9 per thousand births.

The mortality of children under 5 years of age was 56 or 4·1 per thousand against 57 or 4·4 per thousand in 1905 and 73 or 5·6 per thousand in 1904.

This shows some improvement on previous years and I must give the inhabitants credit for the better care of their infants.

The system still prevails in the District of parents carrying out their children in the early hours of the morning to be nursed for the day, and brought back at night.

Nineteen persons have died over 70 years of age, two of whom had reached the advanced age of 81 years and one each of 82, 84, 85, and 87 years respectively.

The causes of death were :—

Various Diseases of the Respiratory Organs	26	Meningitis	6
Diseases of the Heart	19	Cerebral Hemorrhage and Apoplexy	7
Phthisis and other Tubercular Diseases	10	Senile decay	4
Premature birth	12	Appendicitis	2
Brights Disease	7	Peritonitis	5
Diabetes	4	Measles and its complications	5
Enteritis	2	Diphtheria	2
Scarlet Fever	3	Influenza	4
Whooping Cough	2	Erysipelas	1
Enteric Fever	1	Various Cancerous Diseases	9
Diarrhœa (Infants)	3	Accidents of various kinds	7
Cirrhosis of Liver	3	Other causes not necessary to particularise	21
		Total	165

You will have observed that 12 deaths have been registered as being due to Premature Birth against 16 in 1905.

Amongst these were two cases of twins, therefore for the 12 births there were only 10 mothers.

On inquiring I find that all the women had been employed at the Mills. The time they remained at home previous to the accouchement varied from one day to four months, the average time being 38 days.

In my opinion, the chief cause of the high rate of Infant Mortality is to be looked for in the want of proper care of the mother during the period of gestation, and for some months after the birth of the infant. If women could only be educated to remain at home a few months earlier, I feel sure that further improvement might be effected.

During the year the following cases of Zymotic Disease have been notified to me, viz. :—

108	cases of	Scarlet Fever.
13	,,	Erysipelas.
8	,,	Diphtheria.
2	,,	Enteric Fever.
1	,,	Membranous Croup.
1	,,	Puerperal Fever.
Total...133	cases.	

In the year 1905 the number of Zymotic cases was 127.

The deaths from the principal Zymotic Diseases number 16, a death-rate of 1·18 per thousand against a death-rate of ·77 per thousand in 1905, 1·9 in 1904, and 1·3 in 1903.

You will have noticed that 108 cases of Scarlet Fever have been reported during the year. These cases have occurred more or less throughout the whole year, but principally in the first part of it, also in various parts of your District, and I have no doubt that they are a continuation of the epidemic which has been prevalent for some time.

The continuation of the epidemic is caused principally by people visiting each others homes where the disease exists, thereby carrying the infection to their own houses.

Three deaths have resulted from this disease during the year.

In the absence of an Infectious Diseases Hospital everything has been done to prevent its spread.

The cases were visited, premises inspected, verbal and printed instructions given as to the proper means of isolation of infected persons and the preventive measures to be observed, to prevent as far as possible the spread of the disease.

I am pleased to state that at the present time there is not a single case of Scarlet Fever within your District.

In the later end of November and the beginning of December your District was visited by an epidemic of Measles which became so prevalent that on December 7th it was deemed advisable to close the Barn Meadow Lane Council School until after the Christmas holidays.

On December 12th St. John's School and the National School (Girls) were also closed for the same period, and on December 14th the Infants Department of St. Huberts School also.

The Schools were allowed to re-open on January 7th, 1907, and although the attendance was not up to the average the epidemic had practically exhausted itself, and I do not know of a single case of Measles in the District at the present time.

The epidemic was a very severe one and a large number of children suffered from the disease. The exact number I cannot state as the notification of the disease is not compulsory, but from which cause five deaths have been recorded.

The Schools in the District were all thoroughly disinfected during the holidays and are much in the same condition as in previous years.

The Workshops are generally in a satisfactory condition and no contravention of the Regulations are apparent. Inspections and investigations lead to improvements where desired.

The Mills have been inspected from time to time during the year and instructions given to the Managers as to the cleansing and disinfecting and frequent flushing of the urinals and closets.

Negotiations are now in progress to remedy the existing conditions at some of the Mills.

The Slaughterhouses (two in number) viz.: the public one belonging to your Council, and the one belonging to the Co-operative Society are of recent construction and in a very satisfactory condition.

The Tripe Boiling Works are kept clean and in a fairly satisfactory condition.

The Bakehouses are in a satisfactory condition, and the suggestions recommended in last years Report have been carried out.

There is only one Registered Lodging House in your District (for men only) and it appears to be conducted in a respectable manner, but has not been kept so clean as I should desire.

The Markets have been regularly visited, but as no food of an unwholesome nature has been found exposed for sale no action has been necessary.

The Dairies and Cowsheds have been under observation during the year and although some of them are in a fairly satisfactory condition there are others which require more airspace, better lighting and ventilation.

The Sewage undergoes treatment by continuous precipitation and irrigation at the Clayton-le-Moors and Great Harwood Joint Outfall Works.

A considerable number of Sanitary Improvements have been carried out during the year in various parts of the town.

A number of new Cottages have been erected.

The removal of Refuse and Scavenging has again been satisfactorily carried out under the supervision of your Inspector of Nuisances.

Great Harwood being a Cotton Manufacturing District the greater number of the inhabitants are employed in the Cotton Mills, both male and female.

The people generally are a very hard working class, of clean and thrifty habits.

The District contains 2863 statute acres, and the Dean Clough Reservoir belonging to the Accrington District Gas and Water Board is within its boundaries and from which source it receives its water supply.

In conclusion I again congratulate your Council on the highly satisfactory sanitary condition of your District.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN PATCHETT,

Medical Officer of Health.

Table I.

Vital Statistics of Whole of Great Harwood District during 1906 and previous years.

Year	Population estimated to Middle of each year.	Births		Total Deaths Registered in the District.				Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District.	Nett Deaths at all Ages belonging to the District.	
				Under 1 Year of age.		At all Ages.				
		Number	Rate	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births registered	Number	Rate		Number	Rate
1896	10,500	290	27·6	47	162	171	16·2		171	16·2
1897	11,500	321	28	45	140	156	13·6		156	13·6
1898	12,000	336	28	59	175·7	186	15·5		186	15·5
1899	12,000	330	27·5	40	121·2	151	12·6		151	12·6
1900	12,000	342	28·5	50	146·2	163	13·6		163	13·6
1901	12,000	310	25·8	53	170·9	197	16·4		197	16·4
1902	12,250	310	25·3	50	161·3	166	13·5		166	13·5
1903	12,500	323	25·8	32	99	148	11·8	10	158	12·6
1904	13,000	292	22·5	49	167·8	180	13·8	10	190	14·6
1905	13,000	297	22·8	49	165	150	11·5	11	161	12·4
Averages for years 1896-1905	12,075	315·1	26·18	47·4	150·9	166·8	13·8	3·1	169·9	14·1
1906	13,500	310	23	36	116·1	160	11·8	5	165	12·3

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water) 2818.

Total population at all ages, 12,014.
Number of inhabited houses, 2,620.
Average number of persons per house, 4·6.
} At Census of 1901.

Table III.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year 1906, in Great Harwood District.

Notifiable Disease.	Cases Notified in Whole District.						
	At all Ages	At ages—years.					
		Under 1.	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65	65 and upwards
Small-pox ...							
Cholera							
Diphtheria ...	8		5	2	1		
Membranous Croup...	1			1			
Erysipelas ...	13			1	1	10	1
Scarlet Fever	108	6	46	45	5	6	
Typhus Fever							
Enteric Fever	2			2			
Relapsing Fever...							
Continued Fever...							
Puerperal Fever...	1				1		
Plague							
Totals...	133	6	51	51	8	16	1

Table IV.

Causes of, and Ages at Death during the Year 1906, in Great Harwood District.

Causes of Death.	Deaths in or belonging to the Whole District at subjoined Ages.						
	All Ages	Under 1 year	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards
Measles	5	2	3				
Scarlet Fever ...	3		2	1			
Whooping-cough	2	1		1			
Diphtheria and membranous croup	2		1	1			
Enteric Fever...	1					1	
Epidemic influenza...	4	1				3	
Diarrhœa.....	3	3					
Erysipelas	1					1	
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	4			1	1	2	
Other tubercular diseases...	6		2	2	2		
Cancer, malignant disease	9					7	2
Bronchitis	7	1				3	3
Pneumonia	17	4	3			9	1
Other diseases of Respiratory Organs ...	2		2				
Alcoholism, Cirrhosis of Liver	3					2	1
Premature birth	12	12					
Diseases and accidents of parturition...	3					3	
Heart diseases...	19			1	3	9	6
Accidents	7			4	1	2	
Suicides	1					1	
All other causes	54	12	7	2	4	14	15
All causes...	165	36	20	13	11	57	28

Table V.

District of Great Harwood.

Infantile Mortality during the year 1906.

Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under One Year of Age.

Cause of Death.		Under 1 Week	1-2 Weeks	2-3 Weeks	3-4 Weeks	Total under 1 Month	1-2 Months	2-3 Months	3-4 Months	4-5 Months	5-6 Months	6-7 Months	7-8 Months	8-9 Months	9-10 Months	10-11 Months	11-12 Months	Total Deaths under One Year
i. Common Infectious Diseases	Measles														1	1		2
	Whooping Cough							1										1
ii. Diarrhœal Diseases	Diarrhœa, all forms						1	2										3
	Enteritis, Muco-enteritis Gastro-enteritis									1	1							2
iii. Wasting Diseases	Premature Birth	10	1		1	12												12
	Congenital Defects	1				1		1										2
iv. Tuberculous Diseases	Tuberculous Meningitis											1						1
v. Other Causes	Rickets... ...												1					1
	Meningitis (*not Tuberculous*)							1						2		1		4
	Convulsions ...			1		1												1
	Bronchitis ...								1									1
	Pneumonia ...										1		1			1	1	4
	Other Causes ...	1				1											1	2
		12	1	1	1	15	1	5	1	1	2	1	2	2	1	3	2	36

District of Great Harwood. Population estimated to middle of 1906—13,500.

Births in the year—Legitimate, 299 ; Illegitimate, 11.

Deaths in the year of—Legitimate infants, 33 ; Illegitimate infants, 3.

Deaths from all Causes at all Ages—165.